

City Council

Study Session Summary

November 10, 2015
Library Meeting Room, 951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM

The City Council met in a study session at 7:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Louisville Public Library at 951 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado. The following persons were present:

City Council Present: Mayor Bob Muckle
Council member Jay Keany
Council member Chris Leh
Council member Jeff Lipton
Council member Susan Loo
Council member Ashley Stolzmann

Staff Present: Malcolm Fleming, City Manager
Heather Balser, Deputy City Manager
Dave Hayes, Police Chief
Kurt Kowar, Public Works Director
Troy Russ, Interim Planning and Building Safety
Director
Kevin Watson, Finance Director
Dawn Burgess, Executive Assistant to the City
Manager

Members of Public

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Muckle

Discussion – Roadway Traffic, Speeding and Pedestrian Safety

Public Works Director Kurt Kowar said the conversation starts with an overview of how Public Works, Planning and the Police Department approach things. Kowar reviewed the presentation in the packet. There are challenges balancing public requests for crosswalks and traffic flow. Staff listens to each complaint and evaluates data, number of complaints, areas of concern and context to determine a response.

Tools include:

- Crosswalks
- Traffic signals
- Speed bumps
- Speed radar
- Speed trailer
- Enforcement (summonses, warnings)

Council member Keany asked about rumble strips which will not interrupt snowplowing but will cause other unintended consequences such as increased noise.

Planning and Building Safety Director Russ said roadway geometrics and the surrounding environment must match.

Council member Keany also asked about various signage.

Council member Lipton likes markings on the pavement. He is concerned that McCaslin is becoming a thoroughfare and speed is increasing. Lipton would like staff proposals to address the issue. Council member Loo would like to know if ticketing works to slow McCaslin drivers down. Chief Hayes said it is a temporary fix, and only works for a couple of weeks. Flashing lights were discussed. Whatever the City decides to implement must be widely communicated. Council member Keany said the lights on the flashing signs need to be maintained.

There was a discussion of the Washington/McCaslin intersection.

Council member Loo would like to see the cost of increased enforcement.

Michael Menaker suggested that the issues are mostly at rush hour.

Accidents and intersections were discussed.

Mayor Muckle would like some standard of how the City will handle traffic. There is general agreement that speed on McCaslin is increasing. He would like rational solutions both long and short term. Kowar said painting crosswalks is minimal. Signs are \$30,000, bump outs \$5000 per side.

Council member Loo said most of the problems are coming from neighbors. The City needs to do a public education effort.

Chief Hayes will look at summons – wording shows why we do what we do. Maybe warnings should look more like tickets. Warnings build relationships as the person recognizes they are not getting a ticket.

A Steel Ranch citizen spoke about speeds in her neighborhood. She feels the stops signs and speed bumps in Indian Peaks make the neighborhood safer.

Citizen who lives on Main Street has noticed an increase in the speed of cars around LMS.

Director Kowar said money for these items is not in the budget and he does not want to over promise.

Discussion – Short-Term Rentals

Interim Planning and Building Safety Director Troy Russ said this presentation is intended to explore whether or not Louisville is prepared to deal with short term rentals. Code does not deal with this directly so it is left to staff to interpret. Code allows it to occur within Residential Medium Density and Residential High Density zone districts. Russ discussed the code. Potential revenues from tax collection would not cover administration of business licensing and tax collection.

Mayor said he feels this is a minor issue but it affects neighborhoods. Do we want to put effort into updating the code? Mayor does not support this use. Council member Keany asked if the City could say “generally speaking, short term rentals are not allowed.”? Deputy City Manager Heather Balser said the City has received some complaints. The information is not clear. We know it is going on but have not received a lot of complaints. Property owners can lease their house for more than 30 days.

Council member Chris Leh asked if this a solution in search of a problem?

They are all over the City. Some HOAs prohibit them.

Michael Menaker thinks we should pass an ordinance proactively. Council member Ashley Stolzmann said she read the staff report and was pleased to see most everything is in place.

There was discussion of trading vs renting. There are significant arguments about area affordability.

Complaints are: strangers in the neighborhood, parking, noise.

It is good to have the foundation of research but Council feedback suggests there is not a need to act right now.

Director Russ feels the City has the tools in place if the issue becomes a problem. The City has mechanisms to deal with complaints.

Discussion – Draft Agenda for City Council Retreat

City Manager Malcolm Fleming said Council typically has a retreat each January. The draft agenda is in the packet. He would like feedback. The entire retreat would be facilitated. Council member Jeff Lipton is in support of a facilitator.

Council member Lipton would like to stay focused on big picture goals. Mayor Muckle would like to discuss subprograms.

There was discussion of the proposed agenda. Council member Leh would like a discussion of how the budget process/scheduling issue works.

Council member Sue Loo would like a conversation about what the priorities will be so as not to frustrate boards and commissions. Council member Stolzmann said Council members need to have the same expectations about the outcomes of the meeting.

Council member Lipton would like to set up a planning and budget process and put together a calendar of events.

Mayor Muckle said the goal is to have a plan of steps to get the budget done.

City Manager Fleming asked if Council wants to set priorities and say other items will not distract from those. The Mayor agreed.

There was a discussion of the Request for Proposal for the citizen survey process.

Mayor Muckle asked Council to send ideas of possible list of agenda items to City Manager Fleming so the agenda can be further developed.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Fleming reviewed the Advanced Agenda.

Council member Lipton reiterated he would like to do all Board and Commission updates in a couple meetings. Mayor agrees that current way is not very efficient. Council needs more time for other items.

Identification of Future Agenda Items

Council member Lipton asked for an update on South Boulder Road and McCaslin Small Area Plan. Director Russ said South Boulder Road is going to Planning Commission.

Council member Stolzmann would like a “field trip” re: paving. City Manager Fleming said there is a map of priorities in the 2016 budget.

Council member Loo said the Legal Committee is working on examining 501c3 entities and their relationship with the City.

Comments – Mayor would like to get together with individual Council members on Council appointments.

Adjourn 9:15pm

*Submitted by – Dawn Burgess
November 11, 2015*